

## Statement of Ethical Principles

County employees should treat their employment as a public trust, using the powers and resources of county employment only to advance public good. County employees should exercise their duties consistent with the Code of Ethics Guidelines presented here, and in accordance with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Employee Handbook.

**In treating county employment as a public trust, you should:**

**PURSUE THE PUBLIC INTEREST:** Diligently and in good faith pursue the public interest to the best of your abilities and subordinate self-interest to the public good.

**BUILD PUBLIC RESPECT:** Build public confidence that government is conducted with honesty, integrity, and a concern for justice and is, therefore, worthy of respect, trust and support. Serve the public with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the public is beyond service to oneself.

**STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE:** Strive for personal excellence and accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues and to administer the public's business with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and effectiveness.

**PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP:** Manage resources to maximize value for county citizens, avoid excessive and unreasonable or unnecessary expenses, and use public resources, including property and time, only for public work. Evaluate all decisions so that the best service or product is obtained at a minimal cost without sacrificing quality and fiscal responsibility.

**EMBODY INTEGRITY:** Faithfully comply with all laws and regulations applicable to the county and impartially apply them to everyone. Eliminate all forms of illegal discrimination, fraud, and abuse of public funds, and support co-workers' and others' efforts to correct such discrimination, fraud, or abuse. Faithfully administer the affairs of the county. Refrain from using your county position to exert improper influence.

**AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY:** Avoid real or potential conflicts between private and public duties. Avoid receiving, soliciting, or otherwise obtaining anything of value from any other public official, employee, business, or citizen, which is intended to influence the performance of official duties. Disclose to the appropriate authority the nature and extent of any financial or personal interest in a county contract, legislation, or in any type of transaction involving the county.

**PROTECT PRIVACY:** Keep private all information acquired by your public employment except when disclosure is required. Information that is confidential should not be disclosed unless required by law.

**EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS:** Embrace diversity and inclusiveness in order to reflect the communities we serve and ensure that diversity contributes to the development of our mission and the common good in a changing society.